

INMAN GALLERY

For Immediate Release
March 9, 2023

Inman Gallery is pleased to present

Jackie Gendel *Sidelong Glances*

March 9 – April 29, 2023

Artists' reception: Friday, March 10
6–8pm

Inman Gallery is pleased to present the exhibition, **Jackie Gendel: *Sidelong Glances*** on view March 9 – April 29, 2023. This will be Gendel's first solo exhibition at the gallery. **Erika Blumenfeld: *Tracing Luminaries*** will be on view in the south gallery. The exhibitions will be open for viewing beginning March 9, and the artists' reception will take place Friday, March 10, from 6–8pm.



Jackie Gendel, *Study for tbt*, 2019
ink, gouache, flashe, watercolor, faux gold leaf on paper
9 ³/₄ x 8 ¹/₈ in (24.8 x 20.6 cm)

Jackie Gendel paints colorful, narrative compositions that blur the distinction between figuration and abstraction in their rendering of people and cinematic spaces. Figures – women in particular – take center stage in her work, unfolding within dynamic scenes with moving bodies in changing spaces. Embracing a fluid approach to her work, Gendel has commented how she develops “scenes, characters and situations through deliberate figuration, intuitive mark making, color and chance procedures,” often painting over works, or creating the same image in different colors and sizes to subvert the singular image. This procedural evolution mirrors the evolving identities of the characters she paints, allowing a narrative to continue without a predetermined or fixed destination. In doing so, Gendel's practice quite literally creates a moving image, which skillfully parallels the theatrical, even cinematic, nature of the paintings themselves.

Included in the show are a series of works on paper across nearly a decade of making, from 2014-2023. Within this selection we see Gendel working in a range of styles and scales, with color and shape varying widely. Yet this also gives us a unique opportunity to see the cyclical nature of her work, the ways she moves in and out of motifs, circling back to compositional strategies with renewed vigor and sustained curiosity. Such display pushes back on reductive understandings of stylistic evolution as linear progress, instead showing a nuanced, playful, expansive understanding of experimentation and generative creation with an eye for sequence and seriality.



Jackie Gendel, *tbt*, 2023
 watercolor and gouache on handmade paper
 10 $\frac{3}{8}$ x 11 $\frac{3}{8}$ in (26.4 x 28.9 cm)
 14 $\frac{3}{8}$ x 15 $\frac{3}{8}$ x 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ in (36.5 x 39.1 x 3.2 cm) framed

Gendel's compositions, like her painterly process, are highly attuned to the slippery relationship between space, time, and motion. Her subjects are active, engaged with their environments and peers, sometimes walking or dancing, other times simply exchanging a passing glance, captured mid-action like stills from a movie. Her most recent works from 2023, which feature repeated, but slightly altered, forms existing concurrently and successively within the same composition exemplify this further. Reminiscent of a strip of film, flipbook animation, or chronophotography, these works show a pictorial rendering of women moving through time and space. Embracing experimentation and loss of control, her works show the ways marks can subtly and dramatically shift unfolding narratives and morph into expressive characters. "In this way," Gendel writes, "painting and drawing introduce me to my subject."

Not only do we have a sense of Gendel introducing herself – and by extension, the viewer – to her subjects, but so too do we feel the figures introducing themselves to one another. Rarely alone, these figures exist alongside others, their relationships captured in varying gestures and glimpses, alluding to dynamics we are not wholly privy to. Sidelong glances between the women are scattered throughout the exhibition, both within paintings and across tableaux. The women rarely look back at us, choosing instead to concern themselves with their own narratives, their own worlds, and each other. In this way, the paintings have a life of their own; the sidelong glance quietly subverts the gaze and honors the figures' own agency.

Jackie Gendel (b. 1973, Houston, TX) received a BA from Washington University in St. Louis (St. Louis, MO) and an MFA from Yale University (New Haven, CT). She has been the subject of numerous solo and group exhibitions, both nationally and internationally, and her work has been featured in publications such as *Artforum*, *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *Art in America*, *Hyperallergic*, *Modern Painter*, and *Art Papers*. The American Academy of Arts and Letters awarded Gendel an Academy Award in 2007. She is currently an Associate Professor of Painting at the Rhode Island School of Design. Gendel lives and works in Providence, Rhode Island.

SPECIAL GALLERY EVENT

Saturday, March 11, 1:00pm. Conversation between Jackie Gendel and Edwin Smalling

Edwin Smalling is an artist and the co-owner of Basket Books and Art, a new independent bookstore and art gallery in Houston.

For more information, email Grace Earick, grace@inmangallery.com